

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:AR DAY:TH

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ADUBS

S/S:MR. BRIDGES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 219126

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS

SUBJECT: AMOCO OPERATIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ: MESSAGE TO
FAHMY

1. PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO FAHMY.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

-- I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I HAVE REACTED TO THE ISRAELIS
IN STRONG TERMS FOR THEIR HARASSMENT OF AMOCO DRILLING
OPERATIONS ON AUGUST 31. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAD SENT THE
ISRAELIS A FIRM WARNING NOT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE
AMOCO DRILLING RIG, ONCE WE HEARD THAT THE HARASSMENT HAD
BEGUN, AND ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING I SENT THEM A STRONG
PROTEST ABOUT IT.

-- YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT WE WERE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR
HAVING THE DRILLING RIG LEAVE THE SITE. WE HAD INDEED
BEEN CONCERNED THAT AMERICAN CIVILIANS MIGHT BECOME

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INVOLVED IF SHOOTING OCCURRED BETWEEN THE ISRAELIS AND

THE EGYPTIAN GUNBOATS THAT WE UNDERSTOOD WERE BEING SENT TO THE SCENE, AND WE CONSIDERED THAT WE MUST SUPPORT THEIR EVIDENT DESIRE TO LEAVE THE RIG. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE DECISION TO MOVE THE RIG ITSELF WAS MADE BY THE CAPTAIN OF

THE VESSEL ON HIS OWN DECISION IN THE FACE OF ISRAELI THREATS.

-- THIS ISSUE OF JURISDICTION IN THE GULF HAS OF COURSE EXISTED FOR SOME TIME. WE HAVE LEFT THE ISRAELIS IN NO DOUBT THAT WE DISAGREE WITH THEIR POSITION AND WE HAVE INSISTED WITH THEM THAT AMOCO BE PERMITTED TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS IN THAT LOCATION, WHICH WE BELIEVE IS WITHIN ITS RIGHTS TO DO. WE HAVE TOLD THE ISRAELIS IN PARTICULAR THAT OUR VIEW CONCERNING THE SO-CALLED MEDIAN LINE DIFFERS FROM THEIRS. OUR LAWYERS TELL US THAT THE LEGAL SITUATION IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR, AND THIS WILL OF COURSE INCREASE THE DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

-- I ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE NONETHELESS CONTINUING TO PRESS THE ISRAELIS STRONGLY TO CEASE THEIR INTERFERENCE WITH AMOCO AND TO PERMIT THE OPERATION TO GO FORWARD. WE HAVE TOLD THEM THAT WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THE SITUATION IN WHICH AN AMERICAN FIRM IS PREVENTED FROM CARRYING OUT ITS LEGAL OPERATIONS.

-- I WILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU ON THIS QUESTION AS DEVELOPMENTS MAY INDICATE. I WILL BE AWAY IN EUROPE AND PROBABLY AFRICA FOR A WEEK OR TWO, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN THE UNITED STATES SHORTLY AFTER MY RETURN. WITH WARM REGARDS, SINCERELY, HENRY A. KISSINGER.
END TEXT. ROBINSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OFFSHORE DRILLING, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, HARRASSMENT, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE219126
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARDAY:TH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760335-0494
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760991/aaaadagd.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMOCO OPERATIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ: MESSAGE TO FAHMY
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, US, IS, AMOCO, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (FAHMY, ISMAIL)
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006